AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for inspecting ~~a~~ groups of drugs, comprising:

- providing the groups of drugs in packs and interconnecting the packs to provide strings;

- ~~the infeed of~~inputting patient and drug data;

- providing each string with at least some of the patient data;

- conveying said drugs ~~past a camera~~;

- optical scanning said drugs in said packs and said patient data on said strings to read scanned patient and drug data and to produce an image of said packs and at least some of the patient data ~~by a camera~~;

- entering into memory the scanned patient and drug data and the image of said packs and at least some of the patient data;

- comparing said scanned drug~~s~~ data with said ~~infeed~~input drug data;

- accepting or rejecting said drugs;

- ~~storing data relating to said drugs in a memory; and~~

- ~~inspecting several groups of drugs,~~

wherein said stored image is maintained as proof of the state of the packs at the time of inspection.~~each group is provided in a pack and a number of packs is connected to provide a string, wherein each string is provided with patient data, said camera inspecting said packs and~~

~~the group of drugs therein, wherein the scanned image of the patient data and packs having the group of drugs therein, is entered in said memory.~~

2. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said scanned drug ~~scan~~ data comprises the number of drugs.

3. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said scanned drug ~~scans~~ data comprise the shape and/or colour of said drugs.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein both the number of drugs and the shape thereof are used for comparing.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said acceptance/ rejection comprises the application of a colour marking.

6. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein said scanned patient data are provided on each pack.

7. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein before the scanning of said drugs they are subjected to a treatment for spreading them out.

8. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said treatment comprises applying vibration.

9. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said treatment comprises moving a brush over said pack.

10. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of exerting a displacing engagement from above on said drugs, comprising an annular movement in a plane essentially parallel with a carrier on which the drugs are placed.

11. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein said step of exerting a displacing engagement comprises exerting resilient engagement in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

12. (previously presented): The method according to claim 10 wherein said annular movement comprises a circular movement.

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the central axis of rotation is essentially at right angles to said carrier.

14. (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein said objects are displaced during spreading in the plane of said carrier.

15. (currently amended): A device for inspecting a string of interconnected drug packs comprising:

an infeed for a string of packs;

conveyance means for said packs;

a camera for scanning the drugs in said packs ;

a discharge for said string of packs;

an input for patient/drug data;

a comparison device for comparing said patient/drug data with said camera scans;

scanning means for scanning of said patient data; and

storage means for storing said patient data scans ~~and~~ with said drug scans.

16. (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, wherein said conveyance means comprise a circulating belt with infeed and discharge provided near each other.

17. (currently amended): The device according to claim 15, wherein said scanning means comprise said camera~~, said camera being configured to scan~~ scanning said patient data in a mirror image.

18. (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, wherein said camera comprises a first light source for determining the patient data and the number of drugs, and a second light source for determining the colour and/or shape of said drug scans.

19. (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, further comprising means for spreading drugs lying next to/on top of one another, comprising a carrier for said drugs, as well as a spreading device disposed above said carrier and engaging on said objects, said spreading device comprising a cam-shaped part, which in the unloaded state is disposed directly above said carrier with clearance and is designed in such a manner that it is fastened to a drive in order to allow said cam-shaped part to follow a continuous path lying in a plane parallel to and above said carrier.

20. (currently amended): The device according to claim 19, wherein said means for spreading comprise two spreading devices arranged next to one another.

21. (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said cam-shaped part is resiliently displaceable in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

22. (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said drive comprises a rotating motor provided with an arm which is at right angles to the direction of rotation and connected to the rotation shaft and on which said cam-shaped part is arranged.

23. (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said drive comprises a rotating motor, a transmission connected to the rotation shaft thereof and an auxiliary arm which is driven by said transmission and extends essentially at right angles to said carrier and is fitted with said arm on which the said cam parts are arranged.

24. (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said cam-shaped parts are arranged on an arm, said arm being rotatable about a first central axis of rotation, said arm being arranged on an auxiliary arm, said auxiliary arm being rotatable about a second central axis of rotation, said first and second central axes of rotation being at a distance from each other and running parallel to each other.

25. (previously presented): The device according to claim 24, wherein two arms with cam-shaped parts are arranged on said auxiliary arms.

26. (currently amended): Method for inspecting several groups of drugs, wherein each group is provided in a pack and a number of packs is connected to provide a patient specific string, wherein patient data are provided on each pack, the method comprising:

- the ~~infeed~~ input of patient and drug data;

- conveying said drugs past a camera;

- optical scanning said drugs in said packs by a camera, said camera inspecting said packs, ~~and~~ the group of drugs therein and the patient data provided on said strings;

- comparing said scanned drugs with said in-feed; and

- accepting or rejecting said drugs based on the inspection;

wherein data relating to said drugs are stored in a memory, and the scanned image of the patient data and packs having the group of drugs therein, is entered in said memory for providing proof of the state of each pack at the time of inspection.

27. (previously presented): Method according to Claim 26, in which said drug scan comprises the number of drugs.

28. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, in which said drug scans comprise the shape and/or colour of said drugs.

29. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, wherein both the number of drugs and the shape thereof are used for comparing.

30. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, in which said acceptance/rejection comprises the application of a colour marking.

31. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, in which said patient data are provided on each pack.

32. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, in which before the scanning of said drugs they are subjected to a treatment for spreading them out.

33. (previously presented): Method according to claim 32, further comprising vibrating.

34. (previously presented): Method according to claim 32, further comprising moving with a brush over said pack.

35. (previously presented): Method according to one of claim 32, further comprising exerting a displacing engagement from above on said drugs, comprising an annular movement in a plane essentially parallel with a carrier on which the drugs are placed.

36. (previously presented): Method according to claim 35, said engagement comprising resilient engagement in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

37. (previously presented): Method according to claim 35, in which said annular movement comprises a circular movement.

38 (previously presented): Method according to claim 37, in which the central axis of rotation is essentially at right angles to said carrier.

39. (previously presented): Method according to claim 26, in which said objects are displaced during spreading in the plane of said carrier.

40. (currently amended): Device for inspecting a patient specific string ~~(10)~~ of interconnected drug packs ~~(15)~~, comprising:

an infeed ~~(6)~~ for a string of packs ~~(15)~~, wherein patient data are provided on each pack;

conveyance means ~~(4)~~ for said packs;

a camera ~~(2)~~ for scanning the drugs in said packs and the patient data on said packs;

a discharge ~~(7)~~ for said string of packs; and

an input ~~(19)~~ for patient/drug data,

wherein scanning means are present for scanning of said patient data, and also a comparison device ~~(3)~~ for comparing said patient/drug data with said camera scans, and

wherein storage means ~~(3, 5, 8)~~ are provided for storing said patient data scans and said drug scans for providing proof of the state of each pack at the time of inspection.

41. (currently amended): Device according to claim 40, in which said conveyance means comprise a circulating belt with infeed ~~(6)~~ and discharge ~~(7)~~ provided near each other.

42. (currently amended): Device according to claim 40, in which said scanning means comprise said camera ~~(2)~~ for ~~storing its scan~~ scanning said patient data on said packs in a mirror image.

43. (currently amended): Device according to claim 40, in which said camera comprises a first light source ~~(16)~~ for determining the patient data and the number of drugs, and a second light source ~~(24)~~ for determining the colour and/or shape of said drug scans.

44. (currently amended): Device according to claim 40, further comprising means for spreading drugs lying next to/on top of one another, comprising a carrier ~~(42)~~ for said drugs, as well as a spreading device ~~(41)~~ disposed above said carrier and engaging on said objects, said spreading device comprising a cam-shaped part ~~(46)~~, which in the unloaded state is disposed directly above said carrier with clearance ~~(a)~~ and is designed in such a manner that it is fastened to a drive ~~(52)~~ in order to allow said cam-shaped part to follow a continuous path lying in a plane parallel to and above said carrier.

45. (previously presented): Device according to claim 44, in which said means comprise two spreading devices arranged next to one another.

46. (previously presented): Device according to claim 44, in which said cam-shaped part is resiliently displaceable in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

47. (currently amended): Device according to claim 44, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor ~~(52)~~ provided with an arm ~~(48)~~ which is at right angles to the direction of rotation and connected to the rotation shaft and on which said cam-shaped part is arranged.

48. (currently amended): Device according to claim 44, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor, a transmission ~~(51)~~ connected to the rotation shaft thereof and an auxiliary arm (54) which is driven by said transmission and extends essentially at right angles to said carrier and is fitted with said arm ~~(48)~~ on which the said cam parts (46) are arranged.

49. (currently amended): Device according to claim 44, in which said cam-shaped parts (46) are arranged on an arm ~~(48)~~, said arm being rotatable about a first central axis of rotation ~~(53)~~, said arm being arranged on an auxiliary arm ~~(54)~~, said auxiliary arm being rotatable about a second central axis of rotation ~~(55)~~, said first and second central axes of rotation being at a distance from each other and running parallel to each other.

50. (previously presented): Device according to claim 24, in which two arms with cam-shaped parts are arranged on said auxiliary arms.

51. (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, further comprising means for spreading out of said drugs disposed prior to said scanning means.